



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTICES

The Development of the British West Indies, 1700-1763. By FRANK W. PITMAN. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1917. 8vo, pp. xvi+497. \$2.50 net.

The neglect of the West Indies, their economic development, and the influence of their commerce upon English and colonial history, which formerly was so conspicuous a defect, has in the last few years been partly atoned for by the publication of several very excellent studies dealing with this subject. The present volume is an important addition to this group and will be indispensable to those wishing to understand the economic background of England's West Indian commercial policy during the period covered, and more especially the conditions leading to the passage of the Molasses Act of 1733 and its effect upon the commerce of those islands.

The first chapter, briefly describing the economic and social conditions in the British West Indies, shows the effects of absentee landlordism, an unprogressive state of society, and a scarcity of labor leading to the introduction of slavery. The two following chapters give an account of the slave trade and a description of the gradual exclusion of the small proprietors from the sugar plantations. Incidentally the situation here depicted throws many side lights upon the economic and social effects of slavery and will be of interest to the student of slavery in our own South.

The description of the need for capital, the methods of obtaining credit, and the conditions determining the inflow and outflow of specie casts much light on the legislation of the islands. The trade with the Spanish colonies brought in specie, chiefly in return for slaves and English manufactures. But when the Dutch and the French competition reduced this trade the importation of specie fell off. At the same time the North American colonies began to buy more of their sugar and molasses from the French West Indies. Consequently the British West Indies, no longer able to pay for their imports of foodstuffs, live stock, fish, and lumber from North America by exports of sugar and molasses, had to remit specie to meet the balance. The desire to check this drain was an important element in the demand of the British West Indies for the Molasses Act.

Meanwhile the rapid growth in the output of the French West Indian sugar plantations and the lower price at which their product was to be obtained, not only caused a serious depression in the British colonies between 1728 and 1738, but enabled the French and the Dutch traders to meet more and more of the Continental demand for sugar, a market which, previous to 1700, had been supplied in the main through England. Consequently the British sugar planters started an agitation for the right to ship sugar direct to the Continent. This right, with certain restrictions, was finally granted by parliament in 1739, but it did not result in a recovery of the Continental market for the British producers and traders.

The chapters devoted to an account of the trade between the British West Indies, the foreign West Indies, and the North American colonies clearly show how the rapidly increasing output of the North American colonies was unable to find an adequate market in the British West Indies. The latter, during this period, failed to grow appreciably. In all except Jamaica the soil was becoming exhausted, and in Jamaica various conditions checked the growth that was expected. Naturally, therefore, the North American traders turned to the markets afforded by the prosperous French West Indies, markets where they were generally welcome, since the North American colonies of France were not able to provide more than a portion of the supplies needed. The fact that sugar and molasses could be procured there much cheaper than in the British islands, owing partly to the more fertile soil and partly to freedom from various taxes imposed in the British possessions, only made this trade the more lucrative. Such trade depressed the price of the British planters' products, increased the cost of their imported supplies and shipping charges, and drained the islands of specie. Hence the demand of the British sugar planters for protection, a demand finally granted by parliament, though after long hesitation, in the shape of the Molasses Act of 1733. The passage of this act clearly showed the great power of the West Indian sugar planters in England.

But the economic interests running contrary to this act were much too strong to be effectively controlled. Its very general violation by traders in the West Indies, who sent large quantities of French sugar to England as British produce, as well as by traders from the North American colonies, is excellently described in the two chapters on "Illicit Trade from 1733 to 1763."

The rise in the price of sugar after about 1738, due to the rapidly expanding market in England and the failure of the British planters to

increase their output more rapidly, caused much resentment and criticism in England. But the planters were unremitting in their efforts to strengthen their monopoly, and their opposition to the acquisition of other sugar-growing possessions was no slight factor in determining the terms of the Treaty of Paris in 1763.

The volume is an excellent example of scholarly investigation. It is based almost exclusively on manuscript sources and makes available a considerable amount of important data. This has been used with care and judgment, the author showing a keen appreciation of the facts that are significant. There are numerous useful charts depicting exports of sugar and trade balances, an excellent map, valuable statistical tables, and an index of sixty-three pages which is a model.

CHESTER W. WRIGHT

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

The Socialism of Today. Edited by WILLIAM ENGLISH WALLING, J. G. PHELPS STOKES, JESSIE WALLACE HUGHAN, HARRY W. LAIDLER, and other members of a committee of the Inter-Collegiate Socialist Society. New York: Holt, 1916, pp. xvi+642. \$1.60.

An addition to the flood of books on socialism may very appropriately seek to justify its appearance on the ground that it is "different." "The first international and comprehensive source-book dealing with the Socialist movement in any language" is the description given this book by its editors (in italics) in their preface. It is a scholarly compilation of primary material for the study of socialism in the sense of a modern political movement, and will surely be welcomed by students and teachers of the subject.

Presumably the two chief problems in the making of a source-book are, first the selection, and secondly the arrangement of the material. Adequately to criticize the first, in the present case, would require a very complete knowledge of the pamphlet and of the documentary literature of socialism the world over. This knowledge the reviewer does not possess, and he can only say that the work appears to be both scholarly and critical, sympathetic, of course, but generally fair. The plan of arrangement adopted, however, gives rise to some reflections. In the attempt to represent the "present position and recent development" of socialist parties, we have two plans clearly suggested, the historical and the topical. The editors have chosen them both, combining them in a rather unsatisfactory fashion. The book is in two parts, the first